What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #218:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello coin enthusiasts!
Hello coin enthusiasts! I don't usually write my newsletters on a Monday but there has been so much going on that I'm just getting around to write it today. We are knee-deep in the Fall auction cycle. There are so many sales happening. I will try to cover what I can. Many of the major auction houses offer something in the way of live sales. I'll try to focus on those over web-only sales. I am covering all of the below sales if you need representation.

So without further ado.....

Numismatisches Antiquariat Lang Auction 4 (15 October)
My apologies for the late coverage on this. We see new coin auction houses popping up everyday. This isn't the case for numismatic literature auctioneers. Many of big houses also sell libraries as a side endeavor. The most notable auction house for numismatic literature in the U.S. is Kolbe & Fanning. Admittedly, the literature business isn't an easy area to work in. High hammers don't typically translate into major profit for those firms and working with heavy books is hard on your back. I have a lot of respect for those firms that make this their sole speciality. A relatively new player in the market is Numismatisches Antiquariat Lang. The firm is about a year old and is headed by Michael Lang, a young man with experience from cataloguing at Künker and Solidus (both German firms). NA Lang is having an auction tomorrow starting with the collection of D. F. Grotjohann and following with the library of Reinhold Jordan. There are 990 lots all together. The auction can be accessed through the German platform Auex. It also starts at 4 p.m. in Germany which means an actual reasonable hour in the U.S.! Thank you Michael!

Gorny & Mosch 306/307 (15-17 October)
G&M has three days of live sales starting with auction 306. The first sale has 1,498 lots. There is a specific collection from Prof. Dr. Wolfram Weiser relating to coinage from the Greek city state of Nikaia in Bithynia (in modern day western Turkey). The section offers a few Republican-era moneyers at the beginning but is largely all Roman Empire after the first four coins. While this coinage is very academically focussed, there are some interesting pieces throughout. That section of the catalog is actually on the 16th and is an electronic sale portion.

The live sale on the 15th is a variety of consignments starting with Celtic coinage and continuing through to Byzantine. You can find some quality Greek and Roman coinage at reasonable starting prices. A few notable pieces are lot 46, a pedigreed Kaulonia early didrachm. Lot 49, a lovely didrachm from Akragas that came from a 1974 Emile Bourgey private sale. Lot 76, a rare Siculo-Punic tetradrachm from a Noble auction in 2000

didrachm. Lot 178, a well-struck Elis stater. Lot 186, an elusive Knossos labyrinth bronze. The obverse is basically not there so it is one-sided but alas it is a labyrinth which is hard to acquire. Lot 213 is a lovely Smyrna tetradrachm but is NOT a Pozzi plate coin. I understand that this was corrected online. However, It is still very much worth consideration. Lot 270, a tetradrachm from the Seleucid king, Alexander I Theopator Euergetes. Lot 373, a reasonably estimated Anonymous quadrigatus. Lot 392, an almost complete L. Hostilius Saserna (Vercingetorix obverse). Lot 412, a rare and beloved type of the "three sisters" of Caligula (please note that this coin has been restored).

Auction 307 is a catalog of world coins starting in the middle ages and running through coinage in the 1800's. Lot 2256 is a repeat from an earlier sale but is worth mentioning. It is a bronze plaque produced by either a factory in Krakow or Brünnlitz of Oskar Schindler (1908-1974). For those familiar with the movie Schindler's List, this plaque carries much more meaning. It supposedly was used as either a gift or a bribe by Schindler to German officials in order to maintain his business without intervention by the Nazis. An interesting piece no doubt.

Leu Numismatik Auction 16 (19 October)
The web sales for Leu Numismatik are almost too much for me with thousands of lots. The live sales are much more manageable. On the 19th of October the 16th live sale for Leu will take place with 225 lots. The Leu catalogs are hard cover and very nice for those that collect catalogs for their libraries. I do have a few extra copies if anyone would like one. A few notables from this sale. Lot 20, a stylistically beautiful tetradrachm from the Celtic tribe of Boii. This coin was recently in the C. Flesche sale that Künker held in 2022 but luckily is being offered again. Lot 30, a nicely pedigreed didrachm from Tarentum. Lot 42 is a beautiful Syracuse dekadrachm during the reign of Dionysios I (405-367 BC) from the artist Kimon. The normal style of Arethusa by Kimon can be a bit hard. This early type is so lovely and serene. There is no die rust that plagues these coins on either side. That said, the reverse has a unfortunate die break at the bottom and the coin is off-center. This is a Jameson plate coin and was from the Gillet collection (aka "Kunstfruend"). Please note that while the coin is a Gillet coin it is not from the Leu/M&M 1974 sale. This can be confusing for many collectors as noting a Kunstfreund pedigree one might assume that it was in the 1974 sale. Mr. Gillet had amassed a large collection which was photographed by Bank Leu's Silva Hurter back in the 1970's. So while we do have photographic evidence of Gillet's collection we can not say Kunstfruend collection in a vacuum. Just something to keep in mind. This coin does also have a Brüder Egger pedigree from 1913 which isn't too shabby! Lot 59, a nicely struck and interesting hemidrachm from Amphipolis. Lot 130, a pretty drachm struck in Cyrene under Trajan. The reverse has a beautifully sculpted Zeus-Ammon. Lot 147, a sharply struck denarius of Sextus Pompey. This also has a pedigree back to 1970 in a private purchase from Bank Leu. Lot 155, a popular coin of Octavian with the AEGYPTO CAPTA reverse and a crocodile. This commemorates Octavian's conquest of Egypt after the ultimate face-off between himself, Mark Antony and Cleopatra. Lot 162, an elusive Civil War denarius during the turbulant times in 68-9 AD. Lot 195, an extremely rare antoninanus of Zenobia.

Please note that Leu does charge an additional fee for online bidding. If you need auction representation please do get in touch. We phone bid these sales making our fees very reasonable for customers.

MDC Monaco Sale 15 (23-24 October)
I ask those of you that get the MDC catalogs by mail if you have ever held a bigger and heavier catalog! All joking aside, MDC has a nice sale coming up on the 23rd of October. The first 227 coins are ancient. MDC works closely NGC and most of the coins are either photo certified or encapsulated. Please note that any coins graded by NGC does not include a guarantee of authenticity. This is important to understand. A few notable coins. Lot 13, a budget Syracuse decadrachm of Euanetos. The coin does have some corrosion in areas but is otherwise a nice example. Lot 25, a nicely pedigreed and pretty stater of Philip II. Lot 30, a sharply struck tetradrachm from Philip II. A beautiful and sharply struck stater from Carthage. It also has a pedigree back to 1926. Lot 96, an enigmatic imitation drachm from Narbonnais et Roussillon. Lot 185 and 186, two

For those interested in medals, starting with 240, there are some incredibly lovely medaillons from the 1800-1900's from Algeria. Lot 244 for example is from the World's Fair of 1893 in Chicago. The world section itself is massive and there are some incredibly important coins. If you do get your hands on a catalog, the really impressive pieces are on blue paper (versus the normal white pages of the catalog).

Künker Fall Auctions - Ancients 416-417 (29-31 October)
Künker has a very impressive collection of ancient coins at the end of October. The collection of Dr. Eike Druckrey begins the catalog with about 300 or so of high quality Greek coins. The introduction to Dr. Druckrey, in both German and English, discusses his boyhood and interaction with coins. This continued on into adulthood when he was able to purchase coins. It seems that his collection was formed with aesthesticism at the forefront when determining his purchases. The catalog is beautifully laid out with long write-ups in both languages throughout. It can be used as an educational resource as well as a sales prospectus. Some of the highlights: Lot 1007, a lovely three-quarter facing diobol of Tarentum. The portrait style of Athena is rarely encountered. Lot 1031, A complete and well struck stater from Terina. Lot 1034, an outstanding tetradrachm with decorative reverse type rom Akragas. Lot 1042, a highly sought after tetradrachm from Kamarina with the head of a bearded Hercules wearing a lion headdress. Lot 1059, a very reasonably estimated early tetradrachm from Syrcacuse with a lengthy pedigree. Lot 1108, a sharp and pedigreed stater of Abdera with a strong image of Herakles on the reverse. Lot 1113, an early stater from Berge with a satyr and nymph. Lot 1163, an impressive large didrachm from Larissa. Lot 1171, a rarely seen type from Eretria with an octopus on the reverse. Lot 1252, a heavy silver stater from Croesus. Lot 1295, a remarkably struck and centered bronze of Ptolemy II with above average grade.

The Roman section of catalog has many wonderful possibilities and most with a pedigree. Some notables include lot 1749, a denarius with the head of Italia and a lengthy pedigree. Lot 1783, a near perfect example of the denarius from L. Hostilius Saserna with complete obverse and reverse. This hails from the Leo Benz collection. Lot 1793, an iridescently toned denarius from Sextus Pompey. Lot 1796, a beautifully struck and complete denarius of the moneyer Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio. Lot 1809, a gold aureus of Brutus. A seldom encountered type and with a pedigree back to 1969 (it comes with the invoice from that 1969 sale). Lot 1853, a pretty and sharp denarius of Augustus from the Spanish mint Colonia Caesaraugusta. The reverse is an allusion to the comet that was seen by the people and thought to be the soul of the deceased Julius Caesar, the adoptive father of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Lot 2024, an impressive medallion of close to 49 grams in weight attributed to Septimius Severus. Lot 2069, an excessively rare and modestly estimated gold binio of Valerian. This is only the second example known. Lot 2077, an unusual and seldom seen tetradrachm from Uranius Antoninus out of Emesa. This is also a plate coin in RPC online. Lot 2165, an impressive gold necklace with 14 ancient gold coins (I'm looking for gifts for those interested!). Lot 2166 is an interesting collection of 306 pieces that was owned by the Duchess Clémentine von Orléans of Sachsen-Coburg-Koháry. They are all ancient and range from Greek to Byzantine.

Catalog 417 is an eLive Premium sale and takes place on October 31. There are low estimates and nice quality material available.

We are available for bidding for those interested.

Coin of the week

Ionia, Smyrna. c. 150-143 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 16.79g (34mm, 12h).
Stephanophoric type. Metrodoros, magistrate. Turreted head of Tyche right / ZMYP/NAIΩN and magistrate's monogram within laurel wreath.

(their ticket included)

References: Milne, Silver, First Series, 5c, obv. die E; Milne, Autonomous, Period IX, 165c; SNG Copenhagen –; SNG Kayhan 592

Grade: A few very minor scratches, otherwise lovely. aEF

Price: $6,250

gk1823

Buy Coin

The Stephanophoric, or wreath bearing, coinage issued by the Ionian League demonstrates the heights of Hellenistic Greek artistic achievement. While the issues of each city were iconographically distinct, the relatively homogeneous visual style has led numismatists to the conclusion that they all belong to one common regional series. Those of Smyrna, placed both their ethnic monograph as well as the magistrates monogram within the eponymous reverse wreath. Clearly a derivative of the New Style Athenian coinage, the bust of Tyche wearing the turreted mural crown reflects Smyrna's defensive strength. Unfortunately for the city's residents, this strength quickly proved to be a paper tiger as encroaching Roman power quickly dominated the region.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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